

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CO

SUBJECT: COFFEE: COLOMBIA COFFEE FEDERATION PRESIDENT VISIT

-- TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 61203

1. ARTURO GOMEZ JARAMILLO, PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIAN

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COFFEE GROWERS, ACCOMPANIED BY

COLOMBIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRS ESCOBAR AND BERNARDO RUEDA, THE FEDERATION'S NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE, CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ AND OTHER OFFICERS ON MARCH 18, TO DISCUSS CURRENT COFFEE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

2. GOMEZ SAID HE HAD MET WITH THE BRAZILIAN GROUP (CALAZANS, ET AL) IN NEW YORK MARCH 15; THAT HE LEARNED FROM THEM THAT THEIR MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON HAD GONE WELL; THAT THE BRAZILIANS HAD ALREADY PRESENTED TO US DETAILS OF THEIR COMMON IDEAS FOR A NEW COFFEE AGREEMENT; AND THAT THEREFORE HE NEED NOT REPEAT THOSE IDEAS. HE ASKED ABOUT US REACTIONS. WE MENTIONED NUMEROUS TECHNICAL FEATURES WHICH WOULD NEED THOROUGH EXAMINATION BUT ALSO OUTLINED SAME BASIC PROBLEMS WE HAD POINTED OUT TO THE BRAZILIAN GROUP (PARA. 4 REFTTEL).

3. GOMEZ APPEARED FULLY UNDERSTAND OUR OBJECTIONS TO SOME MAJOR FEATURES OF JOINT BRAZILIAN-COLOMBIAN PROPOSALS.

WHEN WE POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES OF CONTEMPLATING DIRECT IMPORTING COUNTRY PAYMENTS TO HELP FINANCE PROPOSED RESERVE STOCK HE COMMENTED THAT EARLIER COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL (EARLY 1973) HAD ENVISAGED FULL COST OF MAINTAINING MANDATORY RESERVE STOCKS WOULD BE BORNE BY PRODUCING COUNTRY.

4. KATZ COMMENTED THAT HIGHLY PUBLICIZED PRODUCING COUNTRY EFFORTS TO SUPPORT PRICES BY AGREEING TO WITHHOLD COFFEE FROM MARKET HAD GENERATED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN AND RESENTMENT IN U.S. PUBLIC, PRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ACHIEVING NO REAL SUCCESS. GOMEZ AGREED, ASSERTING THAT DESPITE HIS INTIMATE PARTICIPATION IN PRODUCERS' SCHEMES AIMED AT MARKET CONTROL, HE HAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THAT ONLY AN ICA BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS IS THE ANSWER.

5. GOMEZ EXPRESSED VIEW THAT APRIL WORKING GROUP SESSION IN LONDON WOULD BE BUSY ONE AND THAT MANY DETAILS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT. HE SEEMED PLEASED WITH HIS RECEPTION AND WITH THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANK DISCUSSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE OUTLOOK FOR A NEW COFFEE AGREEMENT. HE DID NOT PLAN TO GO TO LONDON FOR THIS WEEK'S ICO WORKING GROUP MEETING BUT DOES EXPECT TO BE THERE IN APRIL. HE WAS SCHEDULED RETURN BOGOTA MARCH 20. INGERSOLL

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TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, BTRA, CO, COLOMBIAN COFFEE FEDERATION, (GOMEZ JARAMILLO, ARTURO), (RUEDA, BERNARDO)
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